GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2529
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
OUTSOURCING OF CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS
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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)whether Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has decided to outsource the conservation of monuments by giving these monuments to private agencies for restoration and maintenance work;

(b)if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c)the steps taken to ensure that restoration and maintenance work of these monuments is done departmentally?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)to(c) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) undertakes major conservation works in the centrally protected monuments as per the archaeological norms, departmentally through its own manpower resources. In addition to implementing its annual programme, ASI has to honour the requests from State Governments to carry out conservation works in the State protected monuments as deposit works and has to handle projects abroad as part of the bilateral agreements. Coping with an increasing workload, and accomplishing the tasks in a timely manner, is an ongoing challenge.

With a view to completing the conservation projects within the time limits earmarked, a decision was taken in 2006 to outsource conservation works to qualifying private agencies on an experimental basis and the following projects are outsourced :-

i. Safdarjung Tomb, New Delhi
ii. Two Colonial Buildings at Red Fort complex, Delhi

The works outsourced have to be executed strictly as per archaeological norms and under the overall supervision of the ASI.

Based on the result obtained from the above experiment, a final decision will be considered in due course.